



Town of
Westford
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

September 2013



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

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Reminder:
Town Meeting is
October 21st



Watch Meetings Online

westford
CAT

www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

Last month we received the designation as the 11th best town to live in within the United States by Money Magazine, and this month Boston Magazine ranked our school system 8th in the Commonwealth! Congratulations to the School Committee, Bill Olsen, School Superintendent, all school personnel and volunteers, our parents, and most of all our children who helped make this happen.

On Wednesday September 11th, the Westford Remembers 9-11 Memorial Committee held a moving ceremony complete with music, dignitaries, blessings from local clergy, flower bearers, bells, pipes and drums, and honor guards to unveil the newly constructed 9/11 monument, designed by our own Westford firefighter, David Christiana. This was an evening to remember with several poignant speeches delivered by various federal, state and local officials. A huge thank you to the members of this committee, Nancy Cook (chair), Dave Christiana, Dave Devincentis, Sarah Duffy, Scott Hyder, Patti Mason, Judith Ramirez, J.T. Smith, and Terry Stader for their extraordinary efforts and memorable results.

Our fall special town meeting will be held on October 21, 2013 in the Abbot School Gymnasium. The warrant was closed on September 4th and includes 22 articles. Our October newsletter will outline those articles but you may view the draft warrant at the [Town Meeting Webpage](#).

The Board of Selectmen approved the Town Manager/Board of Selectmen [2014 Goals](#) at their September 10th meeting, which may be found in additional links on our [Selectmen's webpage](#).

The Selectmen also approved the Improvements to Roadways Betterment Policy, following the work of the Unaccepted Roads Committee. You may find this new policy along with other important information online at [URC Final Report](#). The Selectmen also approved a Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy which is required to become a Green Community. You may find the policy and other information about this project online at: www.westfordma.gov/greencommunity.

(Continued on next page)



9/11 Memorial Dedication
Photo courtesy of The Lowell Sun

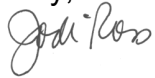
WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

A recent Stantec corporate initiative called Stantec in the Community Day resulted in an effort to pick up trash in our town. The Litter League stepped in and guided Stantec to the desired areas of town. The result was over 30 bags of trash on three different routes. Thank you to Stantec for this much needed effort. If any resident (or others) are interested in working with our Litter League we will provide you with yellow bags for trash, clear bags for recyclables, safety vests, and glo-pink flag tape to mark tires and other objects too heavy for volunteers to lift. To sign up to borrow the kits, or to see what groups have scheduled the kits, go to the [online registration site](#). You can also download the forms required to save time when you collect your kit.

On August 15th, our State Senator Eileen Donoghue and State Representative Jim Arciero held their annual cookout at our Cameron Senior Center. The luncheon presented an opportunity for our seniors to ask questions of our state officials, and also gave our officials an opportunity to thank their supporters.

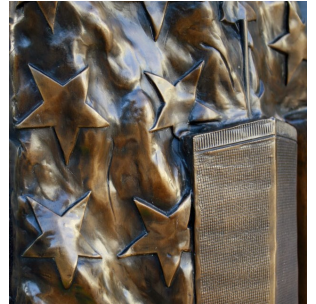
Our Fire, Ambulance and Police Departments went to the Marcus Lewis Day Camp and provided demonstrations for our campers. Our public service personnel were very interactive with all the campers and allowed them to see and try out equipment. They also gave them some very good advice in protecting themselves from accidents such as fires. All ages loved it! The crew received an emergency call and had to leave midway into the presentation. They were kind enough to return after the call so none of our campers were disappointed.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross

*Photos courtesy of the
Westford 9/11 Memorial Committee,
and Andrew Sylvia of the Westford Patch*



Council On Aging - Coming Events

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER MONTH!

Come join us!

Kimball Golf Tournament

This year, we will be having the 15th Annual Cameron Classic at Kimball's .

Thursday, September 19th.

Arrive and sign in at 8:45 AM.

A \$14 entry fee will include 18 holes of golf, a hot dog or hamburger lunch with a cold drink and a small ice cream. This has proven to be a fun day for beginners and low handicaps alike.

You may register with a partner or as an individual.

Payment is due at time of registration.

Please call 978-692-5523.

Italian Sausages

Chef Bill Vullo will be grilling Italian sausages, peppers and onions for all to enjoy.

Thursday, September 19th.

Doors open at 4 PM, dinner served at 5 PM, Bingo will follow dinner.

Charge is \$2.00.

Caesar salad will be provided, but please bring a dessert to share.

We will be eating indoors. Reservations are a must to plan for food.

Please call 978-692-5523.



"Meet Julia Child!" an original play

Friday, September 27th

1:00 PM

This play will be performed by the Delvena Theatre Company, who has presented "Lizzie Borden" and "W.C. Fields & Mae West" in the past.

After the performance we will be serving Root Beer Floats! Please call 978-692-5523 to sign-up.

This program is supported by a grant from the Westford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter

Please visit our website at: www.westfordma.gov/coa

and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Cameron Senior Center - Mini Golf at Kimball Farm Event Held on September 5th



J. V. Fletcher Library News

DEVICE ADVICE! A NEW SERVICE

For many of us, the prospect of downloading FREE eBooks to our tablets, smart phones or eReaders is extremely appealing; unfortunately the process of getting the eBooks to open on a device can be a frustrating one.

Starting the first week of October, Library staff will offer one-on-one tutorials on how to successfully download free eBooks from an Overdrive App (for tablets or smart phones,) or in the case of eReaders, how to wirelessly download eBooks from your PC or Mac to your eReader.



Drop-in sessions will be held on Mondays from 2-4 PM, please come to the Information Services/ Reference desk to check in. Evening sessions will be held on the second Thursday of each month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on an “appointment only” basis. Please call Kristina Leedberg at 978-399-2304 to schedule an evening appointment.

This new customer service initiative will start on Monday, October 7 at 2:00 p.m.



Scan the QR Code with your “smart” device for a complete listing of our adult programs. Or, click on this link :

[http://jvfletcher.westfordk12.us/Pages/JVFletcherLibrary Reference/Information Services/adult programs](http://jvfletcher.westfordk12.us/Pages/JVFletcherLibrary%20Reference/Information%20Services/adult%20programs)

Regular Library Hours

Monday thru Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Open: January through April only)



Local Engineering Firm, Stantec, Helps Clean Up Westford Roads

"Stantec in the Community Day" was undertaken to reflect how the company could focus on community and client relationships. The firm's goal was to have a day where they could come together and make a difference in the communities they serve.

Over 4,000 employees companywide reached out to the communities that they work in. Stantec's Westford office collected 30+ bags of trash and recyclables on three different routes in Westford.

Pick Up Kits and supplies were supplied Westford's Litter League. These kits contain enough equipment and supplies for eight volunteer. To sign up to borrow the kits, or to see what groups have scheduled the kits, go to the Highway Department website at:

www.westfordma.gov/highway
and look for the [Litter League Link](#).



John Murphy and Lou Soracco of Stantec, Inc.

Thank you Stantec!



Water Department News

Water Main Flushing

As part of our ongoing maintenance program, the Water Department will be performing a comprehensive flushing of the water mains in the Forge Village, Town Center, and southern sections of Town. Flushing will begin Monday, September 16, 2013 and be completed by Friday, October 25, 2013. This schedule is subject to change as weather conditions and length of flushing times may vary. Flushing will be conducted between the hours of 8am and 3pm, Monday through Friday.



Flushing is critical to maintain water quality throughout the distribution system. Our flushing program involves opening fire hydrants and flushing valves to create increased water flows which dislodge and clean out naturally-occurring sedimentation in the mains.

Minor flooding of streets and periods of reduced pressure or no water service may occur. In addition, discolored water may result from the flushing so we recommend that you fill bottles with water for use during this time. If you experience colored water after the scheduled completion time, please run the cold water for 5 to 10 minutes to clear your service line. If your water does not clear, you have concerns regarding this flushing, or if you need additional information please call the Water Department at 978-692-5529.

Please avoid washing clothes during hours on the dates above.

The Water Department assures our customers that the water is safe to drink, and any discoloration should clear up quickly after running the cold water for a few minutes.

Fluoride Equipment Upgrade Grant

Earlier this spring, the Water Department was awarded a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Office of Oral Health providing funds to update public water supply fluoride equipment. This grant has permitted us to purchase and install new fluoride monitoring and delivery equipment. We are pleased to provide our customers with the benefits of an efficient and modern fluoridation treatment system.



New Fluoride Pumps

Health Department News

Grants Awarded To Health Department to Assist With Shelter Planning

The Health department was recently notified that 2 competitive grants, submitted to help Westford's emergency response efforts, were awarded to the department.

The Upper Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps, for whom the Westford Health Department serves as host agent, was awarded a federal grant from NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) for \$7000 to develop specialized disaster response teams. The NACCHO grant will fund the training of 100 UMV MRC volunteers to serve on Behavioral, Medical, and Administrative shelter 'strike teams.' These groups would provide focused expertise at emergency shelters, to complement the functions needed for general shelter operations.

The second grant was a regional grant received through MEMA for \$7,496.58 to develop a plan for sheltering residents with special needs. The grant also provides the town funding to purchase needed beds and signage for our shelters.

Horse in Tyngsboro Tests Positive for EEE Information on EEE and Preventative Measures

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the third case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in a horse this year, in an animal which was stabled in Tyngsborough. As a result of this finding, the EEE threat level was raised to in the surrounding towns of Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Lowell, and our community to "Moderate".

There has been one human case of EEE so far this year. In 2012, there were seven cases of EEE acquired by Massachusetts residents. EEE is usually spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. EEE is a serious disease in all ages and can even cause death.



To minimize risk- the Westford Board of Health authorized spraying by Central MA Mosquito Control Program (CMMCP) on two separate occasions, following recommended protocols, but these efforts are short lived. All individuals should continue to take personal precautions to avoid mosquito bites and the illnesses that can be caused from a mosquito bite.

For additional info contact the Health Department at 978 692-5509 or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or toll-free at (888) 658-2850.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

MA Department of Public Health (General Arbovirus Information):

www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito

CDC Eastern Equine Encephalitis Fact Sheet:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/eee.pdf>

Health Department News (continued)

Public Flu Vaccination Clinics

As in years past, the regular dose flu vaccine, in both the injectable and nasal spray formulas, will be offered to all Westford residents age 3 years and older on the following dates, times and locations. All children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent at all clinics. Because of limited pediatric vaccine, we request that children under 36 months of age receive their vaccine from their medical doctor.

Wednesday, Oct. 2	6 pm-8 pm	Millennium School, 23 Depot St. (behind Abbot School), walk-in
Saturday, Oct. 5	9am- 2 pm	Emerson Building, 133 Littleton Rd.(Route 110), Westford, Appt. only. Call 877-936-3776 to register
Thursday, Oct. 17	6 pm-8 pm	Walk-in at the Millennium School

Cost is Free- regardless of insurance status but please bring your health insurance information, as the town can seek reimbursement from insurance carriers.

School Based Flu Vaccination Clinics

School Based clinics will be offered again this fall to all Westford Public School (WPS) students grades K-12. The FluMist nasal spray will be the only form of the vaccine offered in this program. Parents will be notified about the dates, registration process and restrictions through the Westford Board of Health listserv, via email from the WPS Superintendent's Office and through the WPS Bill-board listserv. Information will not be mailed home. Registration information is available on the Board of Health website at www.westfordma.gov under "Public Health" and at the Health Department Office located at Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 55 Main St.

Family Health and Wellness Expo

Emerson is partnering with the Westford Health and Police Departments to hold a Free Health and Wellness fair. There will be dozens of free health screenings including cholesterol, PSA, pulmonary function, vision, hearing, glaucoma, body fat, bone density, blood pressure, skin screening and more. Free demonstrations of complementary therapies including massage, reiki, acupuncture, and t'ai chi. The Police Department will offer car seat checks, bike checks/safety, fingerprinting. There will be children's entertainment, giveaways, refreshments and more! Great family outing and an opportunity to learn more about your health and safety!

Please visit www.westfordma.gov/health or www.emersonhospital.org to learn more.

**See Expo
Poster
Next Page**

Date: Saturday, October 5
Location: Emerson Health Center
Time: 9:00 am-2:00 pm
Location: 110 Littleton Road, Westford

Registration required for: Lipid profile/cholesterol, pulmonary function, diabetes, flexibility assessment, PSA, thyroid, balance screening, vision, eye pressure checks and flu shots. Please call 877 936- 3776 to register. All other services/screenings are on a walk- in basis.

EMERSON HOSPITAL *in partnership with the*
WESTFORD HEALTH & POLICE DEPARTMENTS *present the*

Family Health & Wellness

Saturday, October 5, 9:00 – 2:00 pm

EXPO

Join us at the Emerson Westford Health Center for free screenings, safety tips from the Westford Police, flu shots, fitness demonstrations, children's activities and more.

Free Health screenings

Registration is required.

Call, toll-free 1.877.936.3776

- lipid profile/cholesterol (12 hour fast required)
- prostate specific antigen (PSA)
- thyroid function
- pediatric concussion testing
- skin cancer screening
- glaucoma
- adult flu shots

No registration required:

- blood pressure
- diabetes
- adult and pediatric vision screening
- flexibility testing
- pediatric flu shots (3+ years of age)
- foot screening
- pulmonary testing
- balance
- lasik evaluation
- colo-rectal take-home screening kit
- and more

Family fun and safety activities
Bike and car seat safety, finger printing, face painting, safe mercury disposal and more!



**Emerson Hospital
Health Center Westford**

133 Littleton Road, Westford
www.emersonhospital.org

Heath Department (Continued)

Emergency Preparedness

September is National Preparedness Month which makes it a perfect time for families to come together to develop a communication and evacuation plan and ensure that expired items in kits are replaced. For those who do not have a kit, the Upper Merrimack Valley MRC has purchased supplies in bulk and assembled a kit which can be purchased at the Health Department on the second floor of town hall. This is meant to be a Starter Kit! Don't forget your pet needs too! Cost is \$45, payable to the Health Department.



Ready Massachusetts asks individuals to do four key things to be prepared for emergencies:

Be Informed – Know what emergencies may occur and stay informed

Make A Plan – Plan for your family before an emergency

Build a Kit – Assemble an emergency kit

Get Involved – Volunteer opportunities in emergency preparedness and response

Is your reason for not preparing because you think it's too expensive? Check out the **Preparedness on a Budget** tips.



Emergency Starter Kit



Heath Department (Continued)

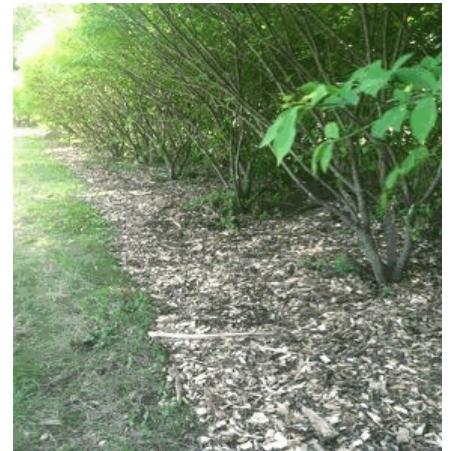
Environmental Tick Reduction Program at Nabnasset School Playground

The Westford Health Department is pleased to announce the near completion of the follow up project to our recent "Managing Ticks On Your Property" seminar conducted earlier this Spring. In taking the next step towards employing the landscaping techniques discussed at the spring seminar which was aimed at reducing tick exposure, the Health Department identified the playground & field located behind the Nabnasset School (Plain Road) and is currently in the process of putting best practices in place as a model example for residents to view and duplicate. The field & play area behind the Nab School have been transformed into an environment that is less conducive to ticks, by reducing their habitat and creating physical barriers so as to limit tick encroachment.



The final touches to the project was the perimeter wide treatment of organic cedar oil which kills ticks on contact, donated by the arborists at Savatree in Lincoln MA., and the addition of permanent, weather proof information stations.

These stations offer access to year round tick bite prevention information. In addition to having the information stations at the Nab School, they are also going up in many other locations around Town as a result of a mini grant awarded to the Health Department this past Spring. The stations are scheduled to be installed by the beginning of September so look for them at the Nab School and many, many other locations around Town!



Special thanks to following groups who supported the effort: Nashoba Vocational Technical High School students, RE Johnson Construction Co., Savatree Arborists in Lincoln, MA and many other Town Departments & Staff.



Look for Tick Safety
Information Stations

Conservation Department News

Visiting O'Brien Farm - Now Even Nicer

Press release from the Westford Land Preservation Foundation, Inc., whose board of directors worked with the Sudbury Valley Trustees to raise \$100,000 in private funds to supplement the Town's \$750,000 expenditure for the conservation restriction on the O'Brien Farm:

The beautiful landscape of the O'Brien Farm located in Parker Village invites Westford residents to explore it's twenty-five acres. The stone walls and 19th-century barn catch the eye of anyone traveling along Vose Road. Beyond the stone walls there are walking trails that pass by Pond Meadow Brook leading visitors to grassland and forested uplands.



Since voters at the October 2012 Town Meeting voted to acquire a conservation restriction to keep the O'Brien Farm land open in perpetuity, residents have been able to cross country ski on the trails over the winter and to enjoy the butterfly and hummingbird garden and flowering plants in the spring and summer.

This fall, thanks to Bob Johnson, of R. E. Johnson Construction Co. in Westford, the Conservation Commission and the Sudbury Valley Trustees can now offer off-street parking lot for visitors to the property. Johnson donated his time and equipment to build the small parking area, cutting the cost of the project in half.

The parking area is off Vose Road, almost opposite Sassafras Road, and is marked by a handsome sign installed by the land owner Charlie McColough with funding help from the Conservation Commission. Vose Road can be accessed from either South Chelmsford Road or Old Lowell Road.

Next project: working with an Eagle Scout candidate, the land owner and the two conservation groups to expand and improve the trail system and trail signage on the land.

